THE SPOTLIGHT

Alexander Hamilton Vocational High School
Brooklyn, N.Y. December, 1961

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY YOUNG TEENS' DIVISION DO NOT CIRCULATE

FinalExamProceduresChange

NON-SHOP EXAMS SHIFTED TO REGULAR CLASSES; AMOUNT OF FREE TIME NOT AFFECTED
SPECIAL DAY DESIGNATED FOR SHOP EXAMS; CHANGE IN REGENTS' NECESSITATES CHANGE

The first major revision in the final examination schedule in several years goes into effect this January. The chief result will be that final exams in all but shop subjects will be given in regular classes, rather than in special exam periods outside the ordinary time schedule.

This will not diminish the amount of free time given the students. There is one day on which boys will appear only for shop exams, two days on which only boys taking regents' exams will appear, and three days on which there is no school at all.

The reason for the change is this: in the past, final exams were taken during regents' exam week. Since there are only two regents exams this term, a new schedule was devised.

Examinations in all but shop subjects will be given over a two day period, January 22 and 23. These will be full days of regular classes.

The final exams in the major shops will be held on January 24. No other classes will meet.

The regents' exams will be held on January 25 and 26. Students who do not have regents' exams will not be required to attend school on those days.

Finally, there will be no school on January 29, 30, and 31.

TAR FIRE ALARMS SCHOOL; LITTLE DAMAGE REPORTED

High drama, but little actual damage, was the result of the fire at Alexander Hamilton on December 6.

The first sign of the fire was smoke, observed from the cafeteria and similar vantage points. A few minutes afterwards (11:57 a. m., to be precise), Mr. Prener turned in an alarm which also rang a fire drill.

The cause of the fire was a tar heater in the court yard which caught fire.

Although it was a lunch period and the cafeteria was crowded, the school was evacuated quickly, in an orderly manner.

The damage was slight, and little inconvenience was caused. The fifth period was lengthened for boys who had missed lunch, and the eighth period was dropped.

After the alarm was over, boys began streaming into school, and the sight of boys returning to half eaten lunches, to finish them, provided a little comic relief after the moments of tension.

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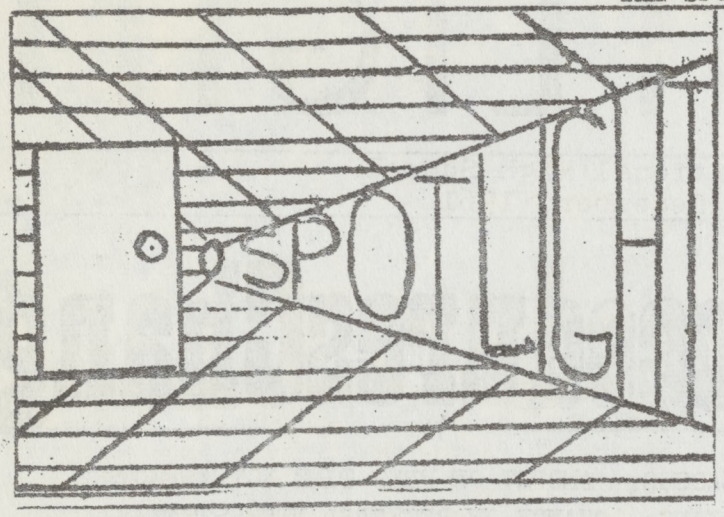
Merry Christmas

Happy New Year



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MEMBER, HIGH SCHOOL PRESS COUNCIL OF NEW YORK.

THE SPOTLIGHT wishes a joyous holiday season to the faculty, staff, and students of Alexander Hamilton.

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There are still three weeks (after Christmas) to improve our grades and get ready for final examinations. There may even be some of us who might do extra work over the holidays to improve our grades. It's not a particularly appealing thought, we know, but it may well be worth it if it means the difference between passing and failing. In any event, don't lag in the home stretch. Get ready for those finals!

THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Boys,

This column, for this issue of your newspaper, gives me a good opportunity to wish for you and your families all of the greetings of this season. I therefore wish to extend to you and to all of those at home, a most joyous holiday season and a very happy new year.

In addition, I should like to share with you some of the thoughts that people of good will everywhere usually try to send one another at this holiday season. We exchange gifts, we send card greetings to one another's homes, we greet one another when we meet, and by all of these means we try to convey some of our good feeling, good spirit, and good wishes for other people.

All of this is just as it should be. This season brings to all of us a feeling of interest in the welfare of our fellows. We want to see everyone happy; we are happy when all around us are joyous and of good spirit. We should, therefore, try to make this kind of feeling for other people spread throughout the year. This is the spirit and the thinking that should guide all of us not only now, but every day that we live.

Again, to you and yours, best wishes in this season.

Sincerely,

Abraham Wilner
Principal

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Again we must acknowledge our indebtedness to Mrs. Sorokin, without whose help our paper would never achieve whatever distinction of appearance it has.

Thanks, too, to Mr. Bender and the boys in Print Shop for their work on our printed headlines.

Faculty Chooses Portrait for Mr. Fox's Memorial

After all votes were tabulated it was announced that the faculty has decided to commission a portrait of Mr. Fox, late principal of Hamilton, as a memorial to him and his work at Hamilton.

Joseph Margulies, an internationally known portraitist, has been commissioned to execute the painting which, it is thought, may be finished before the end of January.

Mr. Margulies, who is listed in Who's Who in America, has painted many well-known people, among them Art Linkletter and Dr. William Heard Kilpatrick, a foremost educator.

Mr. Margulies is a natural choice for the job, since, in addition to his undisputed talent, he is very interested in education, and has a son teaching on the university level.

The exact position of the finished portrait is still under consideration. Two possibilities are the second floor corridor and the library.

The consensus of opinion of the faculty was that for a man who devoted so much of his life and energy to Hamilton, a painting is a most appropriate memorial. Mr. Fox was principal of Hamilton for almost twenty years.

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Mr. Roberts Recovering from Fracture

Mr. Wendell Roberts, teacher of Related Tech. is recovering from the fractured leg suffered as the result of an auto accident last June.

Mr. Roberts lost control of his car, which hit a tree. As a result, his femur (thigh bone) was fractured. Ordinarily, the bone would have healed by this time, but in August, infection set in, and the would had to be reopened, causing a complete set back.

(Cont'd next column)

NYU SPONSORS STUDENT WRITER CONTEST

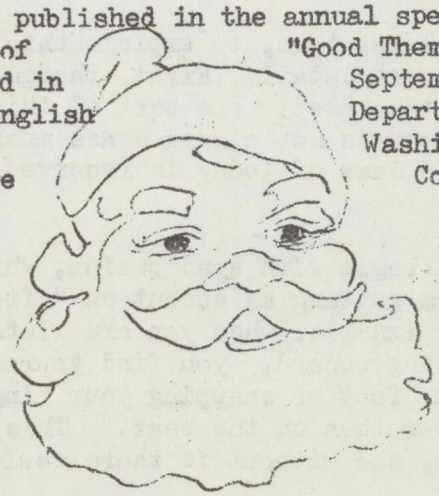
Students who like to write are invited to take part in the 29th annual Prose Writers' Contest conducted among high school juniors and seniors by New York University's department of English. The deadline is April 6, 1962.

Contestants are asked to submit a prose composition on a subject of their own choice -- in any prose form, including the short story, formal essay, informal essay, editorial, feature article, or sketch. Manuscripts should not be fewer than 1,000 words, nor more than 3,000 words in length.

First-, second-, and third-place winners in both the senior and junior division will be given a gold key, a silver key, and a bronze key, respectively.

In addition, senior winners may be nominated for scholarships to New York University, depending upon the financial need and academic record of the individual student. Scholarships may be awarded for as much as $2,600 per year and are renewable annually for four years.

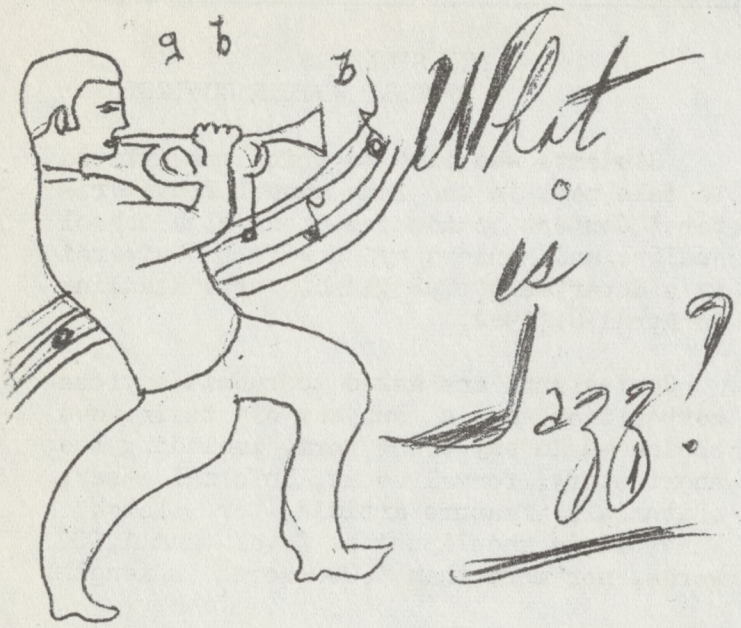
Winners in both divisions will also have the satisfaction of seeing their entries published in the annual special issue of "Good Themes," published in September by the English Department of NYU's Washington Square College.



MR. ROBERTS (cont'd)

Mr. Roberts has been very appreciative of the visits of the faculty, and hopes to return in September, 1962.

Anyone wishing to drop a Christmas card may send it to the Veterans' Hospital, 130 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, New York.



WHAT IS JAZZ?

(Ed.'s Note: The Spotlight is pleased to have as a guest columnist this issue Frank Walls, 8B. Frank is with the Hamilton band and, as you will read, something of an authority on jazz.)

"What is Jazz?" This question has been asked of jazzmen for many years. The dictionary defines jazz as "dance music, usually of improvised nature, with syncopated rhythms."

I would like, then, to explain this definition in more detail. First, though, I would like to correct one part of this definition. Jazz is not always dance music; much of the Jazz of today is reserved for listening.

I will begin with syncopation, which simply means putting an accent on "after" beats. For example, when you are listening to a swing record, you find yourself tapping your foot or snapping your fingers after, rather than on the beat. This is syncopation, and without it there would be no Jazz.

Syncopation, however, is not the only element which makes up Jazz. The most important element of Jazz is the art of improvisation. Jazz is the only music in which the musician himself is composing while playing. He may even take a popular song and play it, not as the composer wrote it, but rather as he thinks it should sound.

These two elements, then, are basically the roots of Jazz, but there is much more to it than I have written. I am sure Mr. Rosovsky of the Music Department would be more than pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Also, our school library has a very fine collection of Jazz records and of books pertaining to the origin, types, instruments, developments, and musicians of Jazz.

FRANK WALLS at work

Below you will find a list of Jazz radio programs and records, which I hope you will take advantage of

RADIO

WADO	1280 AM	Midnight	---	5:30 a. m.
WEUD	1330 AM	Midnight	---	3:34 a. m.
WLIB	1190 AM	4:00 p.m.	---	6:00 p. m.
WBNX	1380 AM	10:30 p.m.	---	Midnight
WLIB	1190 AM	4:00 p.m.	---	8:15 p. m. Saturday

All programs except the last two are daily.

RECORDS

Miles Davis - Porgy and Bess	CL - 1274
Lambert, Hendricks-Ross	CL - 1403
Cannonball Adderly Quintet in Chicago	MG -20499

"IN THE ZONE" PRESENTED

An innovation - and a stimulating one surprised students at Hamilton's annual Thanksgiving show.

Instead of the usual variety show, pupils were entertained by a production of "In the Zone," Eugene O'Neill's stark one-act melodrama.

As the strains of DeBussey's mood-setting "La Mer" died away, the curtain slowly parted to reveal the gloomy interior of a ship's crew's quarters. A mood of suspense was immediately established by the cryptic behavior of one of the men, played with admirable restraint by Anthony Pierro.

The suspicions of the crew of the ship (and of the audience) were aroused by his furtive behavior. Edgy because of the threat of German submarines (the zone to which the title refers is that of the subs during WW I), the crew believed the sailor to be a German spy.

At the climax it is discovered that the suspicious black box, believed to be holding a bomb, instead holds very personal and very poignant love letters.

Ashamed of what they've thought and done, the men return to work, as the curtain slowly closes and darkness again envelops the auditorium.

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Yearbook Contract Signed

Eastern Press will again publish the Technician, Hamilton's senior annual, it was announced recently.

The decision was made after consideration of three bids.

Delivery is promised for mid-June, in plenty of time for the seniors to collect the usual number of autographs.

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On the Aisle (Cont'd)

The play's ever-pertinent theme - the danger of ill-founded suspicion and rash action - was subtly underscored in the performances of a cast which included Paul Maione, Daniel Malaszczyk, Robert Davis, Richard Robb, Paul Fallon, and Raymond Valcich, and Kenneth Davidson.

Another dramatic treat is being prepared by Mr. DelMaestro for the Christmas assembly - Charles Dickens' beloved "A Christmas Carol," which will feature Ronald Blevins, Anthony Pierro, and Raymond Valcich.

Sets for both productions are the work of John Watson, Raymond Harrington, and William Howard.

The cast of "In the Zone" during a break. (from left: Malaszczyk, Fallon, Pierro, Maione, and Robb.)

VISUAL AIDS

Unless you have a great deal of time, don't stop by the V.A. room and ask what's new! The list is considerable, including a variety of equipment and new films, film strips, and tapes.

The new equipment includes two RCA 16 mm sound projectors, three 500 watt film strip machines, one FM radio, one four-speed phonograph, one Revere portable tape recorder, three screens, three Viewgraph machines which show writing on clear plastic, and two new projection tables.

Among the new films are some on nuclear physics, and some on world history. The latter category includes films on ancient Rome, ancient Greece, and the Renaissance.

In the filmstrip department are a set of eight strips on English composition, library work, and word study.

Also received were New York Times filmstrips on current events, a set of nine filmstrips on architecture, and a set of six filmstrips on house construction.

Keeping up with the addition of a course in Spanish (the first in several years), the VA department has added a tape to go with the textbook Primero Curso.

On the pleasure side of the ledger, hewing to the theory that all work and no play makes Jack a you-know-what, Mrs. Godin has added ten long-playing records to the already generous collection of the Listener's Lounge in the library.

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SENIOR PICTURES TAKEN

The sudden sprouting of coats and ties and shiny faces among the senior class was because of senior pictures being taken.

Woodstock Studios, the official yearbook photographer, made arrangements to devote all the afternoons of an entire week to the pictures, and, naturally, everyone wanted to look his best.

Pictures of clubs, teams, organizations and the like were taken on Friday, December 15. This brought another crop of shiny faces and freshly pressed suits.

Pictures of groups were taken in the auditorium, while many individual shots were taken "on location" in the various offices and classrooms in the school.

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PANELISTS CHOOSE VARIETY OF BOOKS

As a reward for participating in the recent "What's Your Library Book" show, the participants were given their choice of books. To give an idea of what a fairly random group of Hamiltonians are reading, here is the list of their choices:

Seth Pennington, "Perfect Spelling"
Sam Delgado, "The Roman Ways"
Christopher Kontos, "Spy Catchers"
R. C. Capestany, "Alas Babylon"
Gary Maurer, "The Red Badge of Courage"
Henry Dreher, "The Plays of Henrik Ibsen"
Raymond Valcich "Ruler of the World"
Ted Piotrowski, "The Plays of Henrik Ibsen"

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Mrs. Godin, in the course of announcing these acquisitions, mentioned that, as a result of the current renovation, the VA department is looking forward to larger quarters in the wing of the building now being completed.

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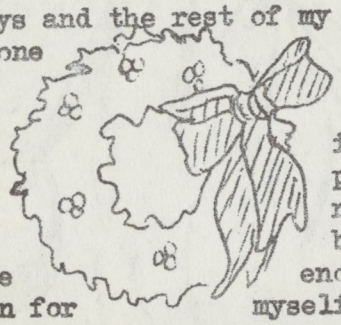
INQUIRING REPORTER

If you could have anything in the world for Christmas, what would you choose? This was the question of the inquiring reporter this month, and there were varied answers. Here are some of them -- some in their entirety, and excerpts from others.

Kevin Kelly: MY DIPLOMA!..... George Arab: A polaroid camera... William Bland, Philip Larocca, Joseph Silva, and Robert Occhiogrosso all want cars, while John Bunning and Joseph Tammero want bowling alleys... Hans Koneke says: "If I had my wish, I would like to get a lathe, a feather burner, and a couple of dozen 210 grain shafts. All this equipment is to make arrows. I love to hunt, and when I go for two weeks I take 5 dozen arrows. Since they cost $8.00 a dozen, it's quite expensive, and I could save money making my own arrows.... Anthony DeCrescenzo wants "a double, a person who looks, acts, talks and thinks as I do. I could use him every other day. He would do half of all my school days and the rest of my work. Except for one thing, I would use my double for every thing. That one thing is my time off and I would play. Here double not need a don't have because I enough fun for enough play or myself, let alone for him." Julius Levy's wants are simple enough: "A visit from Michael Anthony." Roger Kromphardt is more academic. He wants a scholarship to a college, so "I can get a job when I get out of college." Vincent Scala is really in the spirit of Christmas; he states: "If I could have anything I want, I would like to have enough money to buy everyone in my family a present." Jose Garcia says, "If I could, I would like to go to Puerto Rico. It's been six years since I came here and I would like to see my relatives and friends." Robert Bubb: A trip home with my mother, back to the West Indies...Alex Narducci : Happiness for everyone in the world..... David Muniz: A trip to see how other people in other lands live, so I could learn their



(Cont'd next column)

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WHAT I WOULD LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS

by Gerald Horton, 3F

(Ed.'s Note: In asking the question for the "Inquiring Reporter" column,we received this provocative reply. We're happy to print it here for you to read.)

Most of us are asking and hoping for things of material value. I'll admit I am too. That's the trouble. Christmas and Easter and other holy days have become days of material value.

Today we do not think of Christmas as a day of joy or peace, or as the day Christ was born. We think of it as a day to show off our new clothing and other things. In other words we look forward to these holidays for what we can gain. We have no consideration for the principal meaning of these days.

What causes this? Some say it's the swirl of the modern age. Is it? Just after Thanksgiving, merchants get their financial teeth ready to bite the consumer's pocket. Up go the Christmas decorations; into effect goes the sale. The hustle and bustle begin -- everyone grabbing for himself, forgetting the real spirit of Christmas: the act of charity, love to one and all.

Instead, at Christmas, everyone is using this false Christmas as a mask to cover up the emptiness of his heart.

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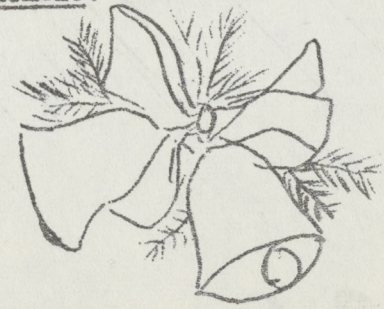
customs and how they came about...Elias Stambolis: To have Christmas with my whole family, because we never had Christmas together because half of my family is in the old country...Luis Suarez: To pass all my subjects, but I have to get this gift by myself..... Anthony Iemolo: To become somebody when I



grow up - a scientist or someone in that field ...James Randazzo: Peace for everyone in the world, or, as Michael Smollar quotes: "Peace on earth, good will towards men."

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The "Spotlight" Wishes You Very

Happy Holidays